

09/471,689
YOR919990507US1

2

REMARKS

Claims 1-32 are all the claims presently pending in the application. Applicant gratefully acknowledges the Examiner's indication that claims 1-28, 30, and 31 are allowed. There are no prior art rejections.

Claim 29 stand rejected on informalities (e.g., 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph) and claim 32 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 on the ground that the invention allegedly disclosed in claim 32 is directed to non-statutory subject matter. Presumably, claims 29 and 32 would be allowed once the above informalities are overcome.

While Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's rejections, to speed prosecution, claims 29 and 32 have been amended respectively to more particularly point out the invention and to clearly allow one of ordinary skill in the art to know the metes and bounds of the invention, and to clearly define claim 32's statutory subject matter for the Examiner. Indeed, claim 32 is believed clearly allowable since the Examiner has kindly indicated the reasons for allowance in Item 8 of Page 5 of the Office Action and claim 32 recites such subject matter.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current Amendment.

It is noted that the claim amendments herein are made only for more particularly pointing out the invention for the Examiner, and not for distinguishing the invention over the prior art, narrowing the claims, or for any statutory requirements of patentability.

It is noted that, notwithstanding any claim amendments made herein, Applicant's intent is to encompass equivalents of all claim elements, even if amended herein or later during prosecution.

Entry of this Amendment is believed proper since no new issues are being presented to the Examiner which would require further consideration and/or search. Indeed, the claim amendments above narrow the issues on appeal. Specifically, the claims have been amended to more particularly point out the invention.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that claims 1-32, all the claims presently

09/471,689
YOR919990507US1

3

pending in the application, are patentably distinct over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to pass the above application to issue at the earliest possible time.

Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic or personal interview.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in fees or to credit any overpayment in fees to Assignee's Deposit Account No. 50-0510.

Respectfully Submitted,

Date: 1/24/03



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Reg. No. 34,386

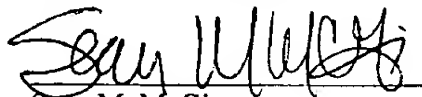
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CERTIFICATION OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that I am filing this paper via facsimile, to Group Art Unit 2121, at (703) 746-7239, on January 24, 2003.

Respectfully Submitted,

Date: 1/24/03



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4

VERSION SHOWING MARKINGS MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

29. (Amended) A system for generating a story, comprising:

means for selecting a theme of said story;

means for examining elements of said theme and instantiating said theme; and

means for using said theme to select and control other aspects of the story generation,

including a plot of said story which employs knowledge-generated characteristics, relationships, and events.

32. (Amended) A computer-implemented, theme-based method of creating a story, comprising:

[selecting a theme]

automatically generating, by a computer, a story based on a theme,

wherein elements of the theme of the story are expounded upon in a simulation engine in the computer to further generate a plot of the story which employs knowledge-generated characteristics, relationships, and events.